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Vol. 23 No. 10 – November 1, 2009

November Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey
RHCC e-mail address – office@rhccucc.org
Website: www.rhccucc.org
Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. M-F
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible



Thanksgiving Sunday - November 22

- **10 AM Worship.** We join hearts, souls and voices to celebrate with praise and thanksgiving to God.
- **Thanksgiving Reception.** Stay for a time of thanksgiving fellowship! Bring your favorite fall-themed baked goods or cold appetizers to share, immediately following morning worship.
- **“Turkey and Twenty”**– a food and fund drive to **help end hunger.** Turkeys and \$20 donations will be collected from church and community members by Missions 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM.
- **Food Collection** – bring a non-perishable food item. Contributions will be given to Rocky Hill Human Services for the town food pantry.
- **Kitchen Shower!** Help us celebrate the first year in our newly renovated church hall and kitchen. A “wish list” is posted in Chapin Hall.



*A View from the
Interim Pastor's Seat*

On November 1st the church will gather after worship for a congregational meeting to vote in the Search Committee for a new settled pastor. This event holds lots of excitement and promise. We will celebrate those who have agreed to serve on the Search Committee. Later in November we will install this Search Team and commit to pray for and support their work.

This fall there have been several opportunities for members and friends here at RHCC to learn about the process and steps this church moves through to get to a new settled pastor. Some may wish and hope that a new settled pastor is right around the corner. Please remember that the Search process will take awhile. Let's be patient as the Search Committee comes together, gets to know one another, receives instruction and advice from the Regional Minister, and begins its work in a careful and meticulous way.

Some of you have taken advantage of the programs offered this fall to discuss the interim and search process as well as to start to look at the history of the church. RHCCUCC's historical timeline will continue to be on display. Your additions are welcome to make this an accurate picture of this church's past. On Saturday night, November 21st there will be another Saturday Potluck Supper and Program where we will share together some of the hopes and dreams for this church's future. Put it on your calendar now and plan to attend. Come and help us imagine the future of this church!

Rocky Hill Congregational Church is a lively, healthy, and vital system because:

so many of you share regularly in worship together...

so many of you give of your time and talent...

so many of you offer your energy and your commitment...

so many of you contribute your gifts and your welcoming spirit...

If you are looking for ways to participate more fully, let us know! If you are seeking ways to offer your time or talents, let us know! If you are interested in growing your faith, this is the place! Let us continue to put our faith into action here at RHCCUCC, sustained and inspired by the Holy Spirit!!



Barbara J. Libby

Interim Pastor



- November 1 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Day / Family Worship
Congregational Meeting to Follow Worship
to Vote in Search Committee**
Scripture: Mark 12:28-34 The Rev. Barbara J. Libby
Sermon: "All Sinners and All Saints"
- November 8 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
2nd Hour Interfaith Conversation**
Scripture: Genesis 21:1-20
Sermon: "Hagar, Sarah, and their Children"
Sermon given by Marwa Aly, Muslim Chaplain at Wesleyan University, Rabbi Debra Cantor, Temple Beth Shalom, and Rev. Donna Manocchio
- November 15 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
Scripture: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 The Rev. Barbara J. Libby
Mark 12:38-44
Sermon: "Many Faces of God"
- November 22 Reign of Christ
Thanksgiving Sunday / Dedicating Food and Turkeys and a \$20**
Scripture: Joel 2:21-27 The Rev. Barbara J. Libby
Matthew 6:25-33
Sermon: "A Time for Thanksgiving!"
- November 29 First Sunday of Advent
Advent Family Night / Dinner and Family Worship at 5:00pm**
Scripture: Luke 21:25-36 The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio
Sermon: "Raise Your Heads!"

Pastor Barbara Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 – 1:30 pm in the Fiorilli Room.

Pastor Barbara leads this lectionary Bible Study where we will read and examine the texts for the coming week's worship. **All are welcome.** No experience necessary. Bring your favorite translation or pick one from the shelf. Brown bag lunch optional.

Pastor Barbara's Weekly Book Study

Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 pm in the Fiorilli Room.

**CALL TO SPECIAL MEETING
ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
NOVEMBER 1, 2009**

A special meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is called for Sunday, November 1, 2009 immediately following worship in the Sanctuary to call a Search Committee for a settled Senior Pastor and to elect the members of said committee nominated by the Church Council. There will be no other business to be put forth at this time.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha G. Hoffman, clerk

Nominees are as follows:

Michael Bower, Louise Butts, Neal Cox, Sarah DeGiovanni, Gail Hall, William Hoffman, Pat Howland, Laura Pawlich, David Sageman, Valerie Triblets, Lynn Webster, Barry Wilcock.

HOW CAN I SERVE MY CHURCH?

Fill one of our committee vacancies to share your talents for the benefit of all....we are searching for:

- 1 – Council Member-at-Large – Represent the congregation on Council (monthly meetings – second Tuesday)
- 2 – Stewardship – Explore ways to grow the church using membership gifts of service and finance (meetings on as-needed basis)
- 3 – Inreach – Care for our members through hospitality (Meetings first Tuesday of month)
- 4 – Nominating – Identify and secure church members to serve on Boards and Committees (short meetings in January, February, March on as-need basis; phone calls)

We really need YOU...please see a member of Nominating (Candy Smith, Linda Calcagni, Ron Robbins, Gail Tine, Hilaire Leavitt, Bruce Gengenbach, Jan LaCava) or leave your name with the church office if you are willing to fill one of these positions.

FROM THE COUNCIL

Although fall is not the “real” beginning of the year, it does feel like a time of renewed energy to me. Maybe it’s the childhood anticipation of starting a new school year in the fall, or maybe it’s the cooler weather, but for whatever reason, I like the swirl of energy at this time of year. My observation is that this seems to be true for the church also. As we swing into our new church program year, our pastors and all of our Boards and Committees are busy and carrying out a full program of activities. We have many, many opportunities to participate in a wide variety of offerings ranging from “Bad Girls” of the Bible to tips for planning your memorial service. Whew!! I do really like having the various sign-up sheets together on a table in Chapin Hall. Following are a few topics of particular interest in our Council business.

Search Committee: One of the most important things on the Council’s early fall agenda was the nomination of members to a Search Committee. Please see the separate article in this Churchmouse about that process. As advertised in the Sunday bulletins lately, on November 1, there will be a special congregational meeting to vote on the nominations to the Search Committee so that the committee can begin their very important work to recommend a new “settled” senior pastor candidate to us.

At-Large Member: We have notified the Nominating Committee that we are seeking a new At-Large member for Council to replace Bob Hamilton who resigned with regret for personal reasons. If you would like to serve, or if you would like to suggest a candidate, please notify Jan LaCava of the Nominating Committee or Ruth Fitzgerald, Moderator.

Fundraisers: As you may recall, the Council added a new line item to the revenue side of the budget this year. Council made a commitment to carry out fundraisers to cover \$5,000 of our operating budget. If you were at the Budget and Elections meeting, you will recall that we did this rather than cutting the budget further. We felt strongly that we should not cut our budget to the point where we would hamper the energetic development of programs or otherwise impede the work of our church. Rather, we decided to make efforts to increase revenue. I’m pleased to announce that several fundraisers are taking shape for later this program year:

- The Fair Committee has agreed to hold an Auction later in the church year. Stay tuned for more details from Jim Stevens on this.
- The Council plans a book sale later in the church year. Our next step is to find a date. If you would like to volunteer to be part of this effort, please call Ruth Fitzgerald 860 232-2238.
- The Christian Ed board is planning a children’s talent show. More details will follow on this also.

- We are planning to sell “scrip” or gift cards. Please see the separate article in this Churchmouse.
- We are investigating several other fundraising options, such as pie sales, etc.
- If you have some great fundraising ideas and are willing to champion them, please contact any council member.

One thing that is both comforting and inspiring to me is that the members who make up the church (*this* church, *our* church) are continuing their faithful and active service, throughout the changing landscape of our staffing changes. The work of our church goes on unabated, and, in fact, seems to me to be somewhat energized by the changes, challenges and opportunities that we encounter. Barb and Donna have put together an ambitious and active program of events for the fall and beyond.

Change is inevitable, and how well we deal with change is part of the measure of who we are. From what I can see, we are responding with energy, commitment and service. We are bound together as a church family and this family seems to me to be healthy and vibrant. To quote last Sunday’s anthem, “blest (indeed) be the tie that binds”.

Ruth Fitzgerald for the Council



SEARCH COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

On November 1, there will be a special congregational meeting to vote on the Council’s nominations to the Search Committee so that this Committee can begin their very important work to get us to a new “settled” pastor. This meeting has been advertised, as required, by being read in church for three Sundays, and we hope many are able to attend to officially endorse this committee to begin its business.

The composition of the Search Committee is set forth in our constitution and is the same as it has been for many years. Our constitution specifies that the church should form a Search Committee and that there should be a representative each from the Boards for Christian Education, Diaconate, Missions, Trustees, Music, and Stewardship Committees. In addition there should be a minimum of three at-large candidates, who do not serve on any of those boards or committees. The Council is empowered to nominate additional members.

For this Search Committee, the Council first decided to nominate a twelve-member Committee (rather than the minimum nine members). This suggestion was made to ensure that the committee contains a good cross-section of our congregation, and

represents the various demographics of our congregation (by gender, by age, by length of membership, etc.) We also felt that twelve was a good Biblical number and that it is a good size for a working committee of this type.

Following Barbara's suggestion, the Council held a retreat at the church in late September to ascertain the gifts and characteristics that we seek in the Search Committee. These characteristics included diversity of membership as well as characteristics of members, such as good communications skills, honesty, openness, commitment to our church, open-mindedness, knowledgeable of our history and polity (or willing to become so), etc.

With these characteristics in mind, the Council put forth names of members to invite to nominations. The Council decided to first nominate the six board and committee representatives. Once we had invited and secured a positive response from the six board and committee representatives, we met again to finalize the list of additional committee representatives to invite to serve.

One of the most wonderful and inspiring parts of this process has been the very positive reaction we received from the folks who were asked to be on the Search Committee, many of whom stated that they were honored to be asked to serve our church in this way.

The members nominated to serve on the Search Committee are:

Bill Hoffman-Diaconate	Laura Pawlich
Val Triplets-Christian Education	Barry Wilcock
Neil Cox-Trustees	Pat Howland
Louise Butts-Stewardship	Lynn Webster
Michael Bower-Missions	Dave Sageman
Gail Hall-Music	Sarah DeGiovani

Assuming this group is endorsed and the Search Committee officially created at the congregational meeting on November 1, they will begin immediately their "process of discernment" to develop our church profile and determine what characteristics we seek in a new settled senior pastor. They will be helped and guided by both the Connecticut Conference Regional Minister Ineke Mitchell and by Barbara in the short term. Barbara will not participate once the committee begins to receive resumes from potential candidates, as she does not want to influence that process in any way.

If you have questions about the search process, feel free to contact Barbara or to call Ruth Fitzgerald, Moderator (860 232-2238 home; 860 543-1520 mobile).

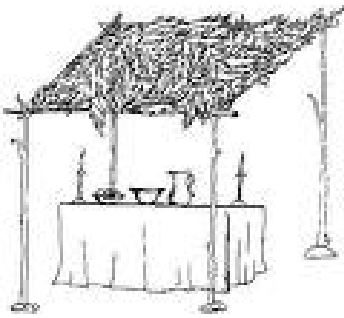
Ruth Fitzgerald for the Council



Lifting Up the Spirit in November:

*A brief update...*As many of you have heard, “Lift up the Spirit!” is our 2009-2010 theme. Sunday school is full gear exploring the idea of covenant and the many ways, from prayer to service with our neighbors to giving offerings to helping out the church as greeters on Sunday morning that we lift up the Spirit in a covenantal relationship with God. Youth group has kicked off with a few fellowship events, and will also be exploring covenant with a particular focus on Micah 6:8.

Upcoming events in November...



On November 15th, the Sunday School will celebrate Thanksgiving, giving thanks to God, by building a Succoth Booth and collecting canned goods for a local food pantry, so be sure to bring a can and check it out!



Advent Family Night

On Sunday November 29th, from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM, bring your whole family and join the Christian Education Board as we kick off Advent, with an Advent Family Night complete with crafts, dinner, and family worship.

Youth Group FUNDRAISERS



Oh, and keep a look out for some really fun fundraisers by our Youth Group to raise money for events and a make-over of the youth room.



Board of Missions

Foodshare “Turkey and a Twenty” Drive – November 22

On Sunday, November 22nd, Rocky Hill Congregational Church will participate in Foodshare’s Annual Turkey and a Twenty Drive. Please bring a frozen turkey and \$20.00 to church on that Sunday. (Checks can be made out to Foodshare) **Collection of the turkeys and monetary donations will be at the front and back doors of the church from 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Anyone is welcome to participate, and this is a community-wide effort. So tell your friends, your family, co-workers, etc. Our goal is 100 turkeys and \$2000.00 of donations. We know this is a steep goal, but the need is great, and our church has a history of helping out.

This Thanksgiving, thousands of area families have asked for help putting a traditional meal on the table. With the recent economic turmoil, Foodshare, the heart of greater Hartford’s hunger-fighting network, needs more turkeys and donations than in previous years to fulfill these requests.

Foodshare’s “Turkey and a Twenty” drive also seeks to raise funds to continue distributing food this winter, long after the holidays are over. Every \$20 gift allows Foodshare to provide another 20 days worth of food for one of the 40,000 children in our area at risk of hunger.

Would you like to deliver a turkey and a twenty to Rocky Hill Congregational Church? Please sign in on the big orange pledge poster in Chapin Hall, or call the church office at 529-4167 to let us know you will be participating. We would like to have an idea of how many turkeys we will need to transport. Please also let us know if you need help carrying your turkey(s). We will have people on hand to help!!

This year we can work together to make sure that everyone has a prosperous Thanksgiving.

Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering was a great success this year. We collected over \$1000.00 dollars on Sunday, October 3rd. Thank you to all who contributed!

Back Bay Mission

Donna Manocchio and Jim Day were in attendance at the **Back Bay Mission Campus Recovery Celebration**. They helped dedicate the new buildings, participated in a day of work camping, attended a shrimp boil, and worshiped in the new Micah Center. They were also lucky enough to reconnect with our dear friend, Don Morgan, who many of you who have been to Back Bay will remember, along with many of the other friends we have made there. Pictures of the new campus and Donna and Jim's visit can be viewed on the church website.

Ongoing Missions Projects

In the near future, we will be asking church members to participate in a survey concerning future mission trips and hands-on volunteer work. Look for this opportunity to let us know what you would be willing to do to help further our mission work. We look forward to hearing your comments, ideas, etc.

Where Did Your Money Go?

In October, your Missions Board decided not to disperse any funds, as we are up to date on our budgeted items.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 3, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

Your Board for Missions are Dave Bell (Treasurer), Michael Bower, Linda Calcagni, Bob Carberry, Dave Edwards, Diana Gengenbach, Marge Murk (Secretary), Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, Chris Palazzolo, Steve Smith (Chair)

NEWS FROM THE FAIR COMMITTEE

The Country Fair made almost \$13,000.00 this year for our church.

The Fair Committee wishes to thank all who participated in making our Fair a success.

A special thanks goes to the Booth Chairs and their volunteers and those generous individuals who made donations. Also, accolades to Dick Webster for all his help.

We wish everyone a joyous Holiday Season.

Your Fair Committee

Jim Stevens (Chair)

Lynn McKenna

Neal Cox

Annie Hokans-Doll

Elaine Somes

Mary Dean

Bob Simmons

Phyllis Wilkey

Nancy Flynn (Treasurer)

Candy Smith



“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”—Hebrews 13:2

BOARD of DEACONS

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, my mind has turned to remembrances of the holiday—particularly those Thanksgiving meals shared with a guest, or guests. I recall the little things we did to make our visitors feel welcome—a flurry of activity even before anyone showed-up. Cleaning the house. Telephoning to find out if they had a favorite dish or dessert (or an allergy). Arranging the table with name cards.

So too is our life together in the church.

But, who is the visitor among us? ...is it the first-time Sunday guest? ...is it the new member? ...is it the family that just moved into town? Could it be some familiar ‘strangers’—recognized by face, but still quite unknown to us?

Friends, we have much to share here at Rocky Hill Congregational Church UCC! Our “Thanksgiving meal” is the Good News of Christ, which we share through worship, music, education, fellowship, and service. As we LIVE OUT this common life, let us strive to extend the most extravagant invitation to the stranger, guest or visitor...to join us on this journey. And, may the Holy Spirit guide our way.

Peace be with you,

Bob Inderbitzen, Senior Deacon

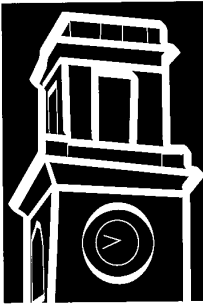
bobmike@cox.net

Diaconate News and Notes:

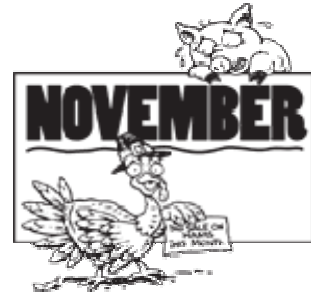
ONA Group Needs Volunteers. Earlier this year, the church made a declaration, establishing itself as an Open and Affirming Christian community. Now, the Board of Deacons has established a working group to help with the next phase of this commitment. This group is tasked with helping us LIVE OUT our promise of inclusion and diversity. The group will explore new ideas, challenge us to think in new ways, and invite us to try new things. Volunteers are wanted to participate in this important planning and work! Please contact Deacons Stephanie Heneghan (860) 529-4672 or Cheryl Hummel (860) 508-2070 for more information.

Parish Care: please let members of the Diaconate or our ministers know if there is someone who would like a visit from our parish care volunteers or would like a ride to and from church. And, let us know if you’re interested in volunteering.

Your Sisters and Brothers of the Diaconate: Laurel Cole, Deb Copes, Julie Dostie, Tom Fulda, Stephanie Heneghan, Bill Hoffman, Cheryl Hummel, Bob Inderbitzen, Julia Pickett and Gail Tine



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m. with childcare



2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 All Saint's Day Family Worship 11:15am Congregational Meeting to Vote Search Committee 11:30am Music Meeting	2 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	3 8:00am Community Mtg 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	4 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 6:30pm Book Study 7:00pm Lessons & Carols 7:30pm Adult Choir
8 11:30am 2 nd Hour Program 11:30am Lessons and Carols Rehearsal 5:00pm Women's Fellowship Dinner	9 7:00pm Search Committee 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	10 7:00pm Council Mtg	11 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 6:30pm Book Study 7:00pm Lessons & Carols 7:30pm Adult Choir
15 Veteran's Recognition Sunday 11:30am Lessons and Carols Rehearsal NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:30pm Bell Choir	17 7:30pm Baby Quilters	18 9:00am Quilters 9:30am CT Conf Ministry 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 6:30pm Book Study 7:00pm Lessons & Carols 7:30pm Adult Choir
22 9:30am Turkey and a \$20 and Food Collection 11:30am Lessons and Carols Rehearsal 11:30am Chapin Hall Shower	23 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	24 10:30am Genesis Health 7:00pm RH Ecumenical Thanksgiving Svc at St Eliz Seton	25 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:00pm Lessons & Carols 7:30pm Adult Choir
29 Advent 1 11:30am Lessons and Carols Rehearsal 5:00pm Advent Family Night Dinner and Family Worship	30 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir		

VOICE MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

If you call the church and the Voice Mail answers, you do not have to listen to the entire message. Anytime during the message you can have the call transferred directly to the person you are trying to reach by simply keying in the following numbers:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| Barbara Libby, Interim Pastor | 202 | Meghan Young, Acting Dir of CE | 204 |
| Donna Manocchio, Assoc. Pastor | 203 | Will Kanute, Dir. of Music | 207 |
| Carol Harvey, Office Secretary | 201 | Dick Webster, Sexton | 205 |

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

805 Old Main Street – Rocky Hill, CT 06067

(860)529-4167 office • (860)257-9637 fax

office @ rhccucc.org • website: rhccucc.org

Office Hours 8 am – 2 pm – Monday – Friday

The Reverend Barbara J. Libby, Interim Pastor

The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Associate Pastor

The Reverend Arthur C. Weil, Minister Emeritus

Will Kanute, Director of Music



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Women's Bible Study "Bad Girls of the Bible" 8:00pm Men's AA	6	7
12 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Drum Circle 8:00pm Men's AA	13	14 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9-4:00pm Deacon's Retreat off Premise 6:30pm Dinner/Movie
19 10:00am Maplevue Svc 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Fair Mtg 8:00pm Men's AA	20	21 6:00pm Pot Luck and Program about Future
26 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 8:30am Men's Bible Study

Potluck Supper and Program about the Future

**Saturday
November 21
6:00 – 7:30 pm
Chapin Hall**

Come share some
of your hopes and
dreams for this
church's future.

Come help us
imagine the future
of this church!

Bring a main dish, a
salad, or a dessert
to share...

We never go
hungry here at
RHCCUCC!



**RHCC DRUM CHOIR
REHEARSAL
Thursday, November 12
7:00 PM**



Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 Neal Cox | 16 Jim Griswold |
| Bill Pierson | Andrew Wakeman |
| Kristin Rutigliano | 17 Mary-Ellen Lewis |
| Lanaya Rupaka | Kayla Hughes |
| 02 Diana LaBar | 18 Jacob Moot |
| 03 Phil Swain | 19 Bob Simmons |
| 05 Meghan Wilcock | Sheila Elliot |
| 06 Tom Matthias | Susan Allaire |
| 07 Michael McKenna | Lisa Kettles |
| 08 Rob Grandell | Kevin Fell |
| Alyssa Somes | 20 Mary-Edith Bowman |
| 09 Sharon Vassilopoulos | Elijah Calderon |
| Tracey Fandetti | 22 Julia Pawlich |
| Lisa Taylor | 23 Margaret Bray |
| Jennifer Martin | 24 Kim Batterson-Biglow |
| Christopher Marshall | Melissa Tackett |
| 11 Paula Komar | 25 Melvin Smith |
| Dale Rowland | Dorothea Wiley |
| Brianna Stewart | Pete Riberio |
| 12 Diana Belliveau | William McKenna |
| 13 Donna Rowland | 26 Evan Timrud |
| 14 Kathy Stanyek | 28 Lisa Fell |
| 15 Roland Lataille | Kade Lamontagne |
| Marshall LaBar | 29 Susan Wakeman |
| Elke Pierson | 30 Ryan Pirre |

Dorothea Wiley is Turning 99 Years Young on November 25th

Friends of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church,
Please send a card to her at:
Avery Heights Station 2 Room 47
Attn: Dorothea Wiley
705 New Britain Ave., Hartford CT 06106



**Joseph and Janet
Kunzelman**
were married on
11-3-1958

**Warren and Gladys
Carpenter**
were married on
11-5-1955

Congratulations!



**Congratulations to
Linda Grillo** on the
birth of her 2nd
grandchild,
Maya Amelie Kutz
born October 6th !!

Musical Notes ♪ ♪ ♪

The Music committee would like to thank everyone who attended the Hot Cat Jazz Concert on October 4. It was a great success with over 70 in attendance. We took in \$314 in the free will offering, which will be donated toward the Operating budget.

December is fast approaching and we would like to remind everyone of the Lessons and Carols concert to be held on Sunday Dec. 6 at 4 PM in the sanctuary. It will involve members of the congregation, the adult and children's choirs as well as the Bell Choir as we celebrate the story of Advent and Christmas through the Scriptures and music. Please make plans to join us . Snow date will be Sunday Dec 13.

Also coming quickly is the annual Cookie Walk. As we did last year there will be a sign up sheet in Chapin Hall for volunteers to make cookies. We had over 100 different kinds last year and would like to see lots more! Snow date for this event will be Sunday Dec 20th. More information will follow so check the signs in Chapin Hall.

Christmas Caroling for shut-ins and local convalescent homes will also be happening. Watch for more details in the December Churchmouse.

As we reported last month, the committee will be seeking a long-term Acting Music Director to be in place when Will leaves. We are in the process of developing a list of criteria for such a position. The committee welcomes congregational input in this regard. Contact any committee member with your thoughts and suggestions.

Please feel free to contact any of the members of the Music committee if you have questions or concerns about the music program. We want to make music an experience that enhances the life of the church and to do so we need your input.

Your Music Committee

Will Kanute, Music Director

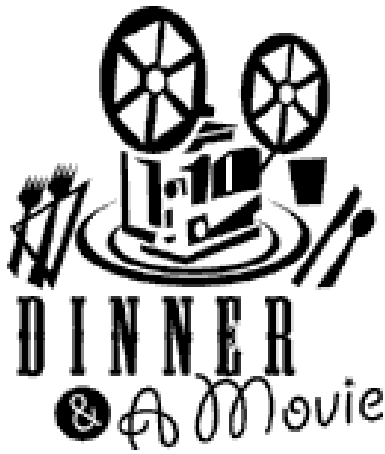
Linda Tokarski Gail Hall Ellie Mahar Chris Mosure Lee Durgin
Bill Pirre Tom Fulda (Diaconate rep)

 from the **Music Director**

Dear Friends,

I want to inform you that for a variety of reasons, it looks like I will be here past January 2010 and possibly as long as June 2010. One way or the other, I want you to know that I will provide plenty of notice before my departure date and that the music committee is on top of the situation. There is no need for anyone to feel any anxiety over this situation. All is well!

Will Kanute



Saturday, November 14th at 6:30 pm
Come to Dinner and a Movie featuring from the
Sundance and Toronto Film Festivals of 2007:

“King of California”
written and directed by Mike Cahill

A fresh-out-of-the-mental institution father and his emancipated teenage daughter venture together on a quest for an ancient Spanish treasure buried beneath their local Costco in this take on the modern family and the American dream. Charlie (Michael Douglas) has become obsessed with the notion that the long-lost treasure of Spanish explorer, Father Juan Florismarte Garces is buried somewhere near their suburban California housing unit.

Initially skeptical, Miranda (Evan Rachel Wood) soon finds herself joining in Charlie’s questionable antics in an effort to give him one last shot at accomplishing his dreams in this darkly funny, exciting and surprisingly hopeful take on the modern family and the American dream.

LÓÖK **ing** **Ahead!**

Please mark your calendars now for these upcoming events in December. Further details to follow in the next Church Mouse!

The season of Advent begins on the last Sunday of November, and we start our time of waiting for the birth of Christ into our hearts and into the heart of the world. Mark your calendars for these important events in the life of our church family:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 6 | 4:00 PM Lessons and Carols |
| Saturday, December 12 | 10:00 AM Service - Toy Collection
5:00 PM Service of Reflection and Healing |
| Sunday, December 13 | Cookie Walk after 10:00 AM Service |
| Sunday, December 20 | Christmas Pageant |

There will be more activities and programs for the Advent and Christmas season. Watch carefully for announcements in next month’s newsletter!

It's a Shower...for the Church Hall and Kitchen!

Help us celebrate the first year in our newly renovated church hall and kitchen!

What to Bring: Gifts for the church kitchen and Chapin Hall. A “wish list” is posted in Chapin Hall. Use the list to help avoid duplicate gifts. Additional donations of any size are greatly appreciated—and may be used toward the purchase of new tables and chairs for the church hall.

When: Sunday morning, November 22. Gifts will be received during the Thanksgiving Reception following morning worship.

Sponsored by members of the Fair Committee, Inreach, Heavenly Hosts, and the Board of Deacons. **For more information, please contact Marsha Hoffman, Bob Inderbitzen, Ruth Jensen, Jan LaCava, Jackie Little or Dick Webster.**



Attention Veterans!!

We need your information for a **Veteran Recognition Sunday - November 15**. Please call the office (860-529-4167) with name, branch of service, and dates served. **We want to list and recognize you in worship** on Sunday, Nov. 15th. In addition **please share a few pictures** of your time in the service. Bring pictures (mark with name & date) to church **before** November 10th. We will set up a Veterans' display in Chapin Hall on Sunday, Nov. 15th.

“Scrip” Fundraising Opportunity

Do you regularly buy food, clothing, gas, or housewares? Do you ever shop at local retailers such as Stop & Shop, Kohls, Borders, Wal-Mart, Marshalls, Staples, or Sears? Do you ever buy coffee at Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions (and there are hundreds of other possible retailers), then you might be able to help support the church without buying anything that you wouldn't normally buy, at the same prices that you would normally pay.

“Scrip” is a cash alternative for a specific retailer – usually in the form of a gift card or a gift certificate. For example, if you buy a \$25 gift card for the Red Lobster restaurant, you can use it to pay for a full \$25 purchase at any Red Lobster restaurant. But if you buy it through our church Scrip program, the church will earn a percentage of the face amount – 9% in the case of Red Lobster, but generally ranging from 2% to 10% (and sometimes higher, depending on the retailer). You get to shop and eat where you regularly shop and eat while the church earns a profit.

We plan to pilot this fundraising alternative during the month of November. Scrip orders placed by church members in November will be available for delivery in early December. Watch for details in the church bulletin and on the church web site.

From the Financial Secretary

Just a reminder: I will be sending to all of you who pledged this year an accounting of your pledge versus contributions. It will include contributions received and recorded by me from 5/1/09 through 10/31/09. Your pledge amount and contributions will be shown for first & second quarter of our 2009-2010 financial year. In addition, the same mailing will include Chapin Hall pledges and collections received to date. Everyone who pledged, whether paid-in-full, up-to-date on collections or overdue, will receive a letter from me. If you see any discrepancies between what I have recorded in the letter I send to you and what your records show you have contributed or pledged, please let me know as soon as possible.

And at any time you decide you want to be “green” and receive only e-mail communications from me, you can call me at 860-257-1099 or e-mail me at finsechrcc@gmail.com.

Thanks! Deb Copes, Financial Secretary

*Welcome
Our New
Members and their Families!!*



Front row left to right: Liz and Teagan Swale-Reed, Max Kainamura, Isabella, Jacob, Francesca and Juliana Moot, Anthony Marcucci

Back row left to right: Tom Swale-Reed, Stephen Kobernat, Izaque da Silva, John and Karen Hoffman, Tom and Chris Kainamura, Dave Edgecomb, Sherry and Brian Silkowski



**“Bad” Girls of the Bible – A Bible Study for Women
Thursday, November 5 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

Come and explore some of the lesser-known women in the Scripture, whose lives are filled with jealousy, deceit, and rejection. Within these stories are words and deeds of courage and determination, commitment and faith. This second session includes women from the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, the Syrophonecian woman, and the Samaritan Women at the Well. All women are welcome! Sign up in Chapin Hall or leave a message with Donna at the church or via email at associate@rhccucc.org.

Just in Time for Dinner

Sunday, November 8th at 5:00 pm in Chapin Hall

This is the second opportunity for all women of our church to gather in fellowship before the holidays. There will be a time for sharing future ideas for the new year. Please feel free to invite a friend, BUT you MUST sign up in Chapin Hall since food will be catered for this event. Look forward to seeing you all there! Free will offering.

Birthings and Blessings

An Ecumenical Women’s Advent Night of Reflection

Wednesday, December 2 - 5:30 – 9:00 PM

St. Elizabeth Seton Church
280 Brook Street Rocky Hill, CT

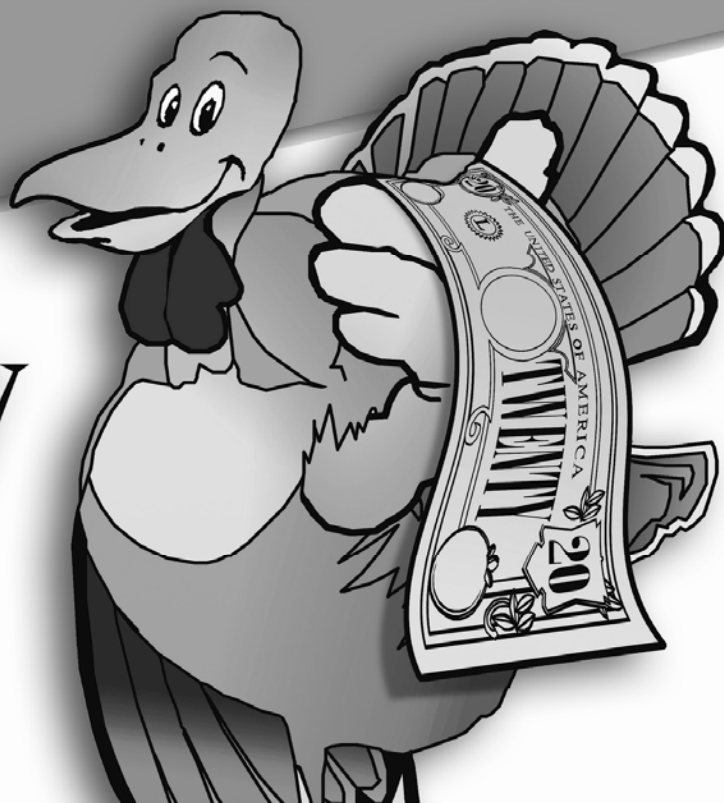
Facilitators: Janet Bristow, St. Patrick St. Anthony, Donna Manocchio, Rocky Hill Congregational, Elaine Paresi, St. Elizabeth Seton, Noreen Reilly, Asylum Hill Congregational – Come together with the women from Asylum Hill Congregational Church, St. Patrick St. Anthony Church, Rocky Hill Congregational Church and St. Elizabeth Seton Church to prepare for the birth of Christ in our hearts and in our world. Our time together will include prayer, conversation, creative expression and a shared meal. Cost for the evening is \$15 and includes a light supper. Please register by November 25th. Registration forms are available in Chapin Hall or in the office.

Quilters/Crafters

Women meet once a month on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm to work on baby quilts and/or your own project of choice. This is a great fellowship time for all. I even hear sometimes there is dessert!! If you have not been attending, please come and leave your name and email address on the sign up sheet provided and Kim will send you reminders each month.



A Turkey and a Twenty



Sunday, November 22, 2009

Rocky Hill Congregational Church - United Church of Christ
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please bring a frozen turkey and \$20.00

(Checks can be made out to Foodshare)

Turkeys & monetary donations will be collected at the front & back doors of the church.

Please sign in on the big orange pledge poster in Chapin Hall,
or call the church office at 529-4167 to let us know you will be participating.

We'd like to have a count of how many turkeys we will be transporting.

Let us know if you need help carrying your turkey(s). People will be on hand to help!

Our goal is 100 turkeys and \$2000.00 of donations.

**A Food and Fund Drive to Help
End Hunger.**



Adventures in the City: Our summer educational program was a success. We served hundreds of children and this was our first year increasing the semester to seven weeks. Unfortunately, we are facing a deficit of \$9,000.

Edgewood Street Project: Finally we are nearing a closing on one unit at 19 Edgewood Street. Construction has ceased at 54 Edgewood St. because of the winter season. Great news though, one of our lenders is forgiving \$100,000 of our loan!

Healthy Homes Program: We have begun to implement this needed program funded by the federal government through Hartford Children's Hospital. Under the leadership of Ralph Knighton and two other CAC employees, we have begun assessing homes in Upper Albany Avenue for dust, mildew, mold, etc. and forwarding the results to the proper agencies for removal of these health hazards.

Faithfully,

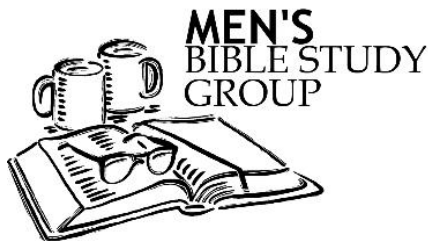
Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

Delegate and Member of the Board of Directors



Always Welcome!

Hunger never takes a holiday... Food Pantries need our help to meet the food demands... Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to worship every time you come. The large basket in the front foyer of the church welcomes all food donations.



The Saturday Men's Bible Study Group As always they are seeking additional members. If you are interested in studying scripture, discussing how it relates to our daily lives, engaging in open religious and spiritual discussions, the Men's Bible Study Group may be just what you have

been looking for. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor.

"November is National Adoption Month."

On the evening of November 1 at 6 PM, Rocky Hill Congregational Church will join with other churches and faith communities all over Connecticut and ring our steeple bell for foster children waiting for permanent families. Families within in our church who have been touched by adoption, who are interested in adoption information, or who just want to help ring the church bell are invited to come! Mary Dean, an adoption recruiter, will be on hand with information about children in Connecticut needing forever families and to answer questions about the adoption process.

RHCC Represented at Faith & Giving National Event

The United Church of Christ, our covenantal denomination, invited a handful of churches to participate in a unique training event held last month in Dallas, Texas. Rocky Hill Congregational Church was selected because of its long-time and outstanding support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)—the lifeblood of ministry and mission in our wider church. Among the objectives of the training is to equip churches to nurture generosity as a spiritual practice, and to help congregations develop a sense of joy in faith-based giving.

With the financial support given through a Special Program fund administered by the Church Council, Associate Pastor Donna Manocchio and Senior Deacon Bob Inderbitzen attended the event. Donna and Bob participated in three days of classroom training, led by two excellent instructors from the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University with backgrounds in "faith and giving." The days were full of new (and a lot!) information and exciting opportunities, and they quickly realized that one of the many blessings of RHCC is that the wonderful history and stories of generosity. They also enjoyed meeting and sharing experiences with other pastors and laity from churches around the country. Bob and Donna were grateful for the opportunity to represent the church—and look forward to continuing the conversation in the church community.

BACK BAY MISSION CAMPUS RECOVERY CELEBRATION

Folks from around the country gathered on October 2-4 at Back Bay Mission, a community mission of the United Church of Christ located in Biloxi, Mississippi, to celebrate the opening of its new campus buildings. Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in August of 2005 and the Mission lost six of its seven buildings, and the new buildings are open after a multi-year construction project. Donna and Jim Day represented RHCC on the weekend, which included tours, a work project (Donna did some painting and Jim put on a roof!), a shrimp boil, and worship in the new community building. A newly produced video, "Bringing Hope Home," as well as photos from the weekend are available on the church website, www.rhccucc.org.

Three groups from RHCC have made work team trips to Biloxi beginning in April of 2005, and church members as well as the Board for Missions have supported Back Bay over the last four years. They are most grateful for our contributions and the support of so many UCC folks and congregations around the country. The weekend was truly an Easter experience – to know and affirm that God's grace and the love of so many have brought the Mission back to life!

A Reminder from your Pastors: If possible please alert us in advance when you are going into the hospital. If a sudden or unexpected hospitalization occurs to someone from the church please let us know! Your phone call is invaluable to us as we try to reach out to those who may need us. Remember please, hospitals no longer call or advise us of a church member's presence in a hospital facility.





COMMUNITY EVENTS

Food Bank – November 1 Please continue your efforts in offering the donation of non-perishable food items, laundry detergent and baby items on the first Sunday of each month. We thank Bill McKinney for his prompt response in delivering our donations.

Multi Faith Hartford Prayer Breakfast – Thursday, November 19th at The Artists Collective on 1200 Albany Ave., Hartford CT

Yoga class offered in Chapin Hall

Yoga with Pam – Quiet the mind, increase flexibility, reduce stress and promote health and wellness. Wednesday evenings at 6:00-7:30pm with Pamela Clark, R.N. The fee is \$12 or \$80 for 8 classes. Beginner and advanced beginner students welcome! Gift certificates available.

Yoga at United Methodist Church in Rocky Hill

Yoga Offered by Core Power, LLC has moved to the Methodist Church in Rocky Hill

Experience the dynamic flow and challenge of yoga which builds strength, balance and flexibility for an overall fit and a healthy body. Classes are for all-levels with options for everyone! Call Lynn MacDonald at 860 550-4660 to register and for information on day, time of classes and cost.



“Around the world coffee and fellowship come together where we share community. A warm pot of coffee is often the centerpiece of fellowship hour and other gatherings.”

Every Sunday, the coffee served after our church service supports

The United Church of Christ (UCC) Coffee Project which helps small farmers and their families gain control over their lives, earn a fairer share of income, have access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust, a fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.

Consider making all of your coffee and tea purchases at church and you’ll be helping small coffee farmers to build better lives for themselves and their families.

During fellowship time in Chapin Hall, the Inreach Committee has available for purchase: Gourmet coffee - \$6.25/bag Tea - \$3/box Hot cocoa mix \$5/can

For more information about the UCC Coffee Project:

www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067
Telephone # 860 529-4167

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Rocky Hill, CT

Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed October 28, 2009



Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.
The United Church of Christ:
No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
NOVEMBER 15**



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 24 @ 7:00 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Seton Roman Catholic Church
280 Brook Street, Rocky Hill CT

All are welcome! Bring a friend!